

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The graduation exercises were well attended Sunday afternoon at the Hoke High Stadium and the rain held off so that the weather fitted into the affair in perfect manner. The day as usual brought tears for some and smiles to the faces of others.

The only complaint I have heard concerning the day was that someone should have been placed in charge of parking in the parking lots. There was no orderly manner, and if an accident had occurred, it would have been almost impossible for an ambulance or car to get out of the lot. These things happen, but by the next year are corrected, so think about this when you attend graduation next year.

The schools will close down Friday for the summer vacation and start again in late August. So be sure to watch out for the children this summer on the streets and highways.

The old saying goes that "April showers bring May flowers". From the looks of the weather chart this week for the month of May, the flowers had more showers. The chart shows 11.2 inches of rain last month and this compares to 9.2 inches of rain in 1974. So, maybe it will soon be a new saying that goes, "May showers drown out May flowers".

The reunion of the 1934 and 1935 classes of Raeford High School will be held this weekend. The class of 1934 will have 19 of 34 members present, and the class of 1935 will have 30 members present. Not had after 40 and 41 years. More on this event next week.

Raz Autry sent in another letter this week, and I will run it as it does not concern the schools of the county. It is something that should concern all citizens, young and old, in Hoke County.

The letter follows:
Dear Sam:

I am sure that you are going to say "You have used your quota for this year," but if you will allow me one more letter, I would like to express my deep appreciation to all the adults and young people who helped with the clean-up campaign Saturday.

I would like to especially thank the seniors. These young people could have used the excuse that they had already graduated so why should they help, but they didn't. They came out and led the way.

We sent 35 loads of beer cans, bottles, and general trash to the dump. We only touched the surface. It was quite distressing and a real eye opener for some of our folks.

If our citizens would just take a few minutes to think, our county would be a cleaner and more beautiful place to live. It will take a total commitment from all of us to make any type beautification project successful. We have made a good start and I urge all of our citizens to continue.

Sincerely,
Raz Autry

This letter is self-explanatory:

Dear Mr. Morris,
The members and leaders of Brownie Troop 352 would like to express their appreciation to their sponsor, Howell Drug, and to the Raeford United Methodist Church for the use of its facilities during the past year. We also wish to say a special thank you to Rev. Kelly Wilson and Miss Ethelynde Ballance for their kindness.

The consideration shown by the above organizations and individuals was instrumental in making this year a successful one for the troop.

Sincerely,
Mary Jo Lovette, Leader
Alice Glisson, Ass't. Leader

Rose's Office Here Saturday

The mobile office of Congressman Charles G. Rose will be in Raeford Saturday June 7 from 10 A.M. - 3 P.M. The van will be parked near the post office.

Kindergarten Drawing Monday

The first drawing for kindergarten for the 1975-76 school term will be held Monday, June 9 at 9 A.M., Superintendent of Schools G. Raz Autry announced.

A second drawing will be August 1 and a third drawing is scheduled at the beginning of the school term.

A child whose name is drawn during the third drawing will be allowed to attend classes wherever a vacancy exists.

Kindergarten classes will be held at J.W. McLaughlin, Scurlock, and West Hoke Schools. Drawings will be held at each of these schools.

Ceilings On Food Stamps Go Up July 1

Maximum monthly income standards for food stamp households will go up July 1, the Department of Agriculture announced.

For a one person household, the new maximum is \$215 per month, up from the present \$194; two persons, \$300, up from \$280; three persons, \$427, up from \$406; four persons, \$540, up from \$513; five persons, \$640, up from \$606; six persons, \$740, up from \$700; seven persons, \$833, up from \$793; and eight persons, \$926, up from \$886.

The monthly coupon allotment for all sized households eligible for the program will also increase July 1.

The maximum allotment for one person will be \$48; two, \$90; three, \$128; four, \$162; five, \$192; six, \$222; seven, \$250; and eight, \$278.

Information for households larger than eight may be obtained from the Department of Social Services.

Increases in food stamp benefits are made semi-annually to reflect increases in food prices.

City Budget

No Tax Hike, No Pay Raise

Gift And A Deadlock At Hoke Board Meet

County commissioners gave a gift and deadlocked on a vote Monday at the June meeting.

The gift was a lounge chair presented by the commissioners, county manager and staff to T.C. Jones, former chairman of the board of commissioners, who retired last fall.

The deadlock came on a disagreement over sending youngsters to a state youth council seminar. With Commissioner J.A. Webb absent due to illness, the board split two-two on a motion by Tom McBryde not to send any representatives to a week-long seminar at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill this summer.

Approving McBryde's argument that the budget was tight and cuts had to be made somewhere, James Hunt seconded the motion. John Balfour and Ralph Barnhart opposed, saying the seminar was an investment in the future, when interested citizens are needed to serve in local government.

McBryde's motion was defeated, since there was no one to break the tie, but a motion by Balfour, seconded by Barnhart, to send two students suffered a similar fate. The cost of the program was estimated at \$50 a student.

Dick Lovett, president of the Chamber of Commerce, discussed goals for the Chamber next year and asked for some indication from the board on funding by the county to help the directors decide on new management.

"I'm here to speak up for the Chamber," Lovett told the board. "I

see the need for a Chamber of Commerce now even more than ever."

Lovett said the new slate of directors intended to correct any deficiencies in the Chamber's performance and continue projects such as securing dentists and physicians and developing an area brochure.

"We want to make it a vehicle worthy of the money appropriated by the city and county," Lovett said.

After hearing from Jeff McNeill on the operation of Four County Community Service Agency, the commissioners approved a resolution to return most of the programs to be funded under federal manpower training grants back to Region N, with a recommendation that the training be administered by the Four County agency.

McNeill told the commissioners that his agency had been administering the manpower programs for years and could administer Hoke's with no increase in staff.

Because the agency salaries are paid with other federal funds, McNeill said that a larger portion of the manpower grants could be used to help the unemployed.

The commissioners agreed to administer directly the public employment portion of the federal program and to have the county school system operate the in-school training program.

The board certified the roster of Rockfish Fire Department for state

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Bertha Hollingsworth

Murder Charge Lodged

A suspect was arrested and charged with murder in the stabbing of a 27 year old Raeford man Monday afternoon.

James Edward Purcell, Box 182, Rt. 3, Raeford, was stabbed in the chest at the home of William and Sara Livingston in the Jones Hill section, Sheriff D.M. Barrington said.

Purcell was taken to Moore Memorial Hospital in Pinehurst where he was pronounced dead on arrival. The body was ordered sent to the state medical examiner at Chapel Hill for an autopsy.

Bertha McLean Hollingsworth, 26, a granddaughter of the Livingstons, was charged with the slaying and ordered held without bond.

Barrington said Purcell was stabbed in the front yard of the home. A bloody knife with a six to eight inch blade was recovered at the scene and turned over to the state crime lab.

Barrington said he had obtained a statement from an eye-witness to the killing.

A preliminary hearing for Mrs. Hollingsworth was set for June 13.

Board Delays Dress Codes

A decision on a new dress code for the schools was postponed at least until fall following discussion at the board of education meeting Monday night.

According to superintendent Raz Autry, the board will wait for recommendations from principals and the school attorney before taking any further action on dress regulations.

Turning to other business, the board agreed to strictly enforce the rule against solicitation in the schools and prohibited the sale of paper and supplies at school.

Teacher assignments were approved and will be announced tomorrow. The board adopted a standard teacher evaluation form and

See DRESS CODE, page 11

A proposed budget with no property tax hike and no cost-of-living increase for city employees was presented to the city council at their regular meeting Monday night.

A public hearing on the tentative budget was set for June 19.

In a prepared budget message to the councilmen, City Manager John Gaddy said recession has made it necessary to hold expenditures as close to last year as possible. The overall budget is some \$58,000 less than the 1974-75 total, he said. The present tax rate is \$.55 per \$100 valuation.

The unencumbered balance of the 1974-75 general fund made up of state and federal reimbursements has been re-budgeted for the coming year to avoid a tax increase, Gaddy explained.

No new major projects are planned, but a 30 per cent increase in utilities is added to both the general fund and the water and sewer fund.

General fund expenditures proposed are \$625,771.84, up \$5,212.59 from this year.

Water and sewer fund amounts to \$477,121.37, rising more than \$65,000.

Revenue sharing funds are estimated at \$102,168 for next year, dropping sharply from \$231,089 in this year's budget.

A two per cent increase in salaries is in the budget to cover anticipated overtime expenses, but a general cost of living increase for employees is not proposed. A three per cent bonus was left in.

Some salary increases were put in the budget to meet minimum recommendations proposed in a classification and pay plan prepared for the city by the Institute of Government.

The council did not adopt the pay plan proposal, pending further study.

The council voted to pay \$15,000 after reviewing a report from City Engineer Lacy Koontz on the \$34,000 cost overrun on a curb and gutter paving project by Crowell Construction Co.

Koonce's report concluded errors were made in the original surveys for the work by both the contractor and city engineers. Some figures in the survey included only one side of streets, and this accounted for discrepancies, Koonce said.

The council agreed last month to pay some \$7,000 on the bill, and Koonce recommended all but \$3,400 of the remainder be paid.

Councilman Sam C. Morris was critical of the city's handling of the matter and said "somebody somewhere was pretty stupid."

Chamber of Commerce President Dick Lovett appealed to the council to approve a \$2,500 increase in city money for the Chamber to hire a fulltime manager and planner.

\$3,000 is put in the coming budget for the Chamber, up from \$500 allocated this year.

Councilman Sam Morris argued against the increase and claimed the membership of the chamber should support a manager, not the taxpayers.

"I can't consciously sit here and raise them from \$500 to \$3,000 when we aren't giving city employees a cost of living increase," Morris told the rest of the council.

The council voted four to one to leave the full amount requested in the budget and adopted a resolution the chamber manager "will work as

See BUDGET, page 11

Fund For Kathy Begun

It takes sweat and money for a good athlete to reach for the stars. For months, Kathy McMillan has been working hard, getting ready for a crack at a spot on the U.S. Olympic team.

Now she needs the money to compete in some of the national qualifying meets.

The Hoke Booster Club has voted to underwrite the costs to Junior and Senior AAU Junior National Championship meets in White Plains, N.Y., on June 24-27.

The Boosters would welcome donations to the fund. Contributions can be mailed to Hoke Boosters, Drawer J, Raeford.

Kathy will be competing in three events at the AAU Junior meet for athletes under age 20, running in the 100 meter and 220 meter dashes as well as jumping the long jump. She will be trying for a place on the United States team to meet the Russian juniors in Lincoln, Neb., on July 4-5.

She will compete in the long jump at the senior meet, unless her times in the earlier junior races qualify her. The winners in the AAU senior meet will compete with the Russian team on July 4-5 in Keiv and later in Prague.

Track coach Billy Colston and Mr. and Mrs. John Buchholz will accompany Kathy to White Plains.

'Case Not Over', Says DA

Driver In Manslaughters Pleads To Other Charges In Mixup

The driver charged with manslaughter in the highway deaths of three people here in March pleaded guilty in District Court to reckless driving and driving left of center because of a mixup which had rumors flying and court officials shaking their heads last week.

William Lowery, Jr., 21, of Wakulla, had been charged with driving under the influence, reckless driving, and driving left of center in connection with the accident near an Antioch church which left three people dead. He was indicted April 21 on three counts of manslaughter.

Lowery appeared in court May 23 with no lawyer present, although he had received court appointed counsel in March. Lowery pleaded guilty to reckless driving and driving left of center and signed the waiver of right to counsel.

Assistant District Attorney Lee Johnson entered a nol pros with leave on the drunken driving charge, which means the state agrees to drop the charge now but may re-open it later. The Breathalyzer result is listed as .00, according to records in the case.

Dupree said no announcement of any plea bargaining agreement was made to the court, and he accepted the pleas and sentenced Lowery.

"I knew this man had been charged with manslaughter in this case, and I thought he was stupid to be pleading (guilty to the two charges) but that's what he wanted to do", Dupree said last Friday.

Lowery received a suspended six month sentence, \$150 fine, and a two year probation period. Dupree ordered he surrender his license for one year.

Lowery apparently thought all criminal actions against him were being disposed of.

Probation Officer Larry Ingram said Lowery told him: "Everything is all taken care of, my lawyer told me to plead guilty."

Lowery's attorney, public defender Deno Economou, learned

of the May 23 judgment from a reporter last Friday and expressed surprise.

"I don't know how that happened", Economou said. "I didn't know the case was scheduled that week. He (Lowery) was

Area Incidents

Fire Eyed As Arson

Arson is suspected in an early-morning fire Monday at the County Line Grocery on Duffey Road, Sheriff D.M. Barrington said.

A caller reported the burglar alarm was ringing about 12:30 a.m., and deputies found the back of the building in flames.

The Red Springs Fire Department put the blaze out. No estimate of damage had been made by Tuesday, but deputies termed it "thousands of dollars", according to the report.

Barrington said traces of gasoline were found at the scene, and SBI arson experts were called into the investigation.

Barrington said several persons are being questioned, but no arrests have been made.

In other incidents, a Cumberland County man has been arrested and charged in the Sunday afternoon shooting of a Ft. Bragg soldier.

James Lamont Miller was shot about 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the parking lot of the Chess Club in Arabia, Barrington said. Miller was wounded in the abdomen by a shot from a .22 caliber rifle, the sheriff said.

Miller was taken to Cape Fear Valley Hospital where he underwent surgery. He was reported to be in "guarded" condition.

Lee Roy Keel, 27 Rt. 1, Parkton, was arrested and charged with assault. See AREA INCIDENTS, page 11

supposed to be in court May 16, and he wasn't here."

"I think what happened was a mix-up", Economou said.

Johnson could not be reached for comment, and Assistant District Attorney Duncan McFadyen denied the state made a deal with Lowery.

"This is by no means the end of the case", McFadyen said. "There was no agreement of any kind between the district attorney's office and Lowery in exchange for these guilty pleas."

McFadyen said an agreement to reduce the manslaughter charges to misdemeanor death by vehicle and allow Lowery to plead guilty was rejected by Superior Judge Hamilton H. Hobgood in April because of the judge's interpretation of the law.

Hobgood ruled that death by vehicle, which became law this year, was not a lesser included offense under the existing manslaughter statute, and therefore, new warrants would have to be drawn up, McFadyen said.

Conviction of manslaughter carries up to ten years in prison. Death by vehicle is punishable by a maximum two year prison term.

Economou said nothing definite had been reached on a plea bargain, and termed matters "still up in the air". He suggested that Lowery may have misunderstood the exact nature of the charges against him.

Economou, after conferring with McFadyen, recorded a notice of appeal of the judgment with the clerk of court's office. Dupree said he contacted Economou later and advised him to file a petition requesting the judgment be set aside.

Since Lowery had paid a portion of the fine and also signed the probation order, no appeal of the judgment can be lodged. His probation supervision has already been transferred to Robeson County Probation Office in Lumberton.

Lowery is also being sued for \$75,000 by the widow of one of the victims, Calvin Stultz.